

REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 33, 34, 36, 37, 43 and 44 have been amended to include the feature of “the processing stage including one of the group comprising applying data compression to the voice data, applying echo cancellation to the voice data, applying G.711 log-law coding to the voice data, applying silence suppression to the voice data and applying DTMF digit relay to the voice data”.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 103

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “the processing stage including one of the group comprising applying data compression to the voice data, applying echo cancellation to the voice data, applying G.711 log-law coding to the voice data, applying silence suppression to the voice data and applying DTMF digit relay to the voice data”. Applicants submit that neither Dropmann '934 nor Koistinen '144 teach or even suggest the features of amended Claim 1.

The present invention is concerned with the removal of TFO information from voice data before the voice data is processed through the use of data compression, echo cancellation, G.711 log-law coding, silence suppression or DTMF digit relay. By removing TFO information from the voice data before passing the voice data through the processing stage corruption of bits representing the TFO information is kept to a minimum.

Dropmann, cited by the Examiner, discloses an MSC including a conversion device, “the conversion device effects conversion of the inband TFO signalling... into an interworking with a CC signalling (BICC) and/or an interworking with an IU-UP protocol” (Paragraph 10). “Voice data transmitted from the TRAU... are extracted from the module 10 and transmitted further, as packet data” (Paragraph 10). Thus, it

can be seen that all that is disclosed by Dropmann is the extraction of voice data resulting with the TFO signalling being transmitted as an interworking with a CC signalling or IU-UP protocol and the voice data being transmitted as packet data.

Nowhere does Dropmann disclose or even suggest that the voice data is passed through a processing stage as recited in Claim 1. Furthermore, as Dropmann does not disclose or suggest passing voice data through a processing stage Applicants submit that Dropmann cannot disclose the features of “removing TFO information from the stream of voice data before passing the voice data through the processing stage” (emphasis added) or “sending the TFO information across the packet network without it passing through the processing stage” (emphasis added) as recited in Claim 1.

Applicants further note that Dropmann does not disclose the step of “detecting whether the received stream of voice data contains tandem free operation (TFO) information”. Rather, all that is disclosed in Dropmann is that the “conversion device effects the conversion of the inband TFO signalling... transmitted from a TRAU” (emphasis added) (Paragraph 10). Thus, Applicants submit that one skilled in the art, upon reading Dropmann, would learn to extract voice data when the data is received from a TRAU and would not learn to detect “whether the received stream of voice data contains tandem free operation (TFO) information” as recited in Claim 1.

With reference to Koistinen '114, Koistinen '114 describes an alternative method for processing TFO data by the removal of TFO TRAU frames from PCM flow (C7 Lines 13-15) and the packaging of the TFO TRAU frames in RTP packets, then UDP packets and then IP packets for transmission across a network (Column 7 Lines 51 to 63). Applicants submit that the skilled person, upon reading Koistinen '114 and Dropmann, would recognise that the two documents present two different methods for achieving the same objective, namely for transmitting TFO data across a network and thus, would not choose to combine the teachings of the two documents.

Further, Applicants submit that Koistinen '114 also does not disclose the feature of "passing the voice data through a processing stage" as recited in Claim 1. This is consistent with the Examiner's comments on page 9 of the first Office Action having a mailing date of January 31, 2008.

Applicants therefore submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Dropmann in view of Koistinen '144 in view of Koistinen '271.

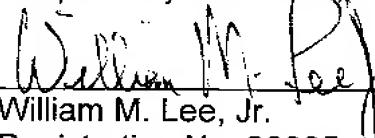
Claims 33, 34, 36, 37, 43 and 44 have been amended to include features corresponding to that of amended Claim 1. Applicants therefore submit that Claims 33, 34, 36, 37, 43 and 44 are patentable over Dropmann in view of Koistinen '144 for at least the reasons given with reference to Claim 1.

Applicants submit that Claims 2 to 9, 11 to 17, 21, 22, 24 to 32, 39, 46 and 47 are patentable over Dropmann in view of Koistinen '144 at least by virtue of their dependencies.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration in that regard is urged.

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Respectfully submitted,



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